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The Shilton Hotel, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore, India
September 19, 1959

Dear JCW:

Here's something we must take care of immediately:

Estelle Holt has checked with the editors of Holiday and they have given her an okay to try to do a"Life with the Maharajah"piece. She is now in New Delhi and going to Kalimpong and I have wired her I will write her there in detail. (By the way, her telegrams to me in Ootie and at the Vasantha Mahal were returned marked "addressee gone, left no forwarding address,"although my address is correctly in the hands of Manikyam and everybody else concerned!)

What shall we do? Shall I, although you authorized me to invite her, get you out of this commitment on the grounds of Dasara, other meetings afterwards, and so forth? What do you want? Certainly you can scribble me an unsigned note and give it to your mother to send on to me, Jaya.

I don't think you should risk having her come unless I can be with her - because in case I am not, all you will get is another one of those tiger-hunting-in-the-jungle things - just what we have been trying to avoid. If I can take her around and educate her about the real Mysore and what you really are like then we might have a very good piece. On the other hand to do this means that I will be giving Estelle the material I have collected for future use , thereby killing my chances of selling it. That turns the matter into a public relations job for you - the sort of thing one is highly paid to arrange. I don't feel that I am in a position to do this under present circumstances since I have spent everything I have in trying to stay here until you could make up your mind whether the work we have talked about attempting can be done or not...that is, I can't just give away for nothing all the work I have been doing here, just because I am fond of you and want to help you become more widely known and more influential in the world. You are in a far better position to be a philanthropist than I am - and at the moment, it is a matter of survival with me. So if you want me to get Estelle here and really work for several weeks on getting a really valuable story developed, then you will have to put me on the payroll while I do it.

Next, I don't think we should attempt this at all unless you can guarantee that the bureaucrats, especially THE bureacrat around the Palace, is not in a position to gum up the works by not cooperating. Handling press people is not an easy matter - they are in the position of doing favors - big ones - to the people they write about - and none of them will take rudeness or lack of attention in their stride - they just get up and walk out and all too often then write detrimental things. This is why you need a trained intermediary like myself, who knows how to handle such situations, taking care of these people - otherwise they only see the surface, and in this case, the surface is not you!

This is up to you to decide - and please don't feel that it makes any difference to me, personally. I am devoted to you and your family and will be your friend permanently, - I have an insight into your problems that perhaps no outsider has, and I want to do what is right for you and what you want. All you have to do in this case is send me a memo saying "Skip Holt" of something to that effect, and I will get you out of the invitation with no reflection on you. If, on the other hand, in the light of the above paragraphs, you think we can handle this, then you must tell me when you want her to come as your guest and specifically for how long - I'd suggest two to three weeks - which would give me time to get her all over the State (you 'd have to supply the car -) with intermittent visits with you and your family. In that case, you should also send her a note of invitation - and I will give you the address if you wish to proceed. But please do it ONLY if you think the situation can be handled smoothly. If you want her to come, I would think she ought to see at least the last two days of Dasara - and proceed from there on the rest of the story.

You should have this note by Monday, and I will wait until about Thursday noon to hear either a NO or a YES from you on what you want done about this. Otherwise I will have to write Estelle and call the whole thing off. If you or your mother can wire me a YES or NO without embarrassment to yourselves, then do so. If not, RUSH me a note - express delivery if possible. PLEASE don't let this dangle, JCW - give me a straight NO or YES - otherwise again we will be jeopardizing my professional reputation for accuracy and straight dealing, which is one of the few things I cherish!

Much to tell you - some letters in from UNESCO, for example, in reply to those I sent of which you have copies. But I don't want to hold this up and will try to do the rest of the memos for you in a day or two.

As ever, Jack